

## **WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**COMMITTEE: WARREN COUNTY SEWER**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2007**

**Committee Members Present:**

Supervisors Champagne  
Belden  
Mason  
Stec

**Committee Member Absent:**

Supervisor Gabriels

**Others Present:**

William Lamy, Superintendent, DPW/Sewer  
Administrator  
Joan Sady, Clerk, Board of Supervisors  
Hal Payne, Administrator, Westmount Health  
Facility/Countryside Adult Home  
Vern Ingraham, PE, Clough, Harbour Associates  
LLP  
Supervisor Geraghty  
Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk

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Mr. Champagne called the meeting of the Warren County Sewer Committee to order at 12:08 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to correction by the clerk.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Lamy, who distributed copies of his agenda packet for the meeting, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mr. Lamy commenced with review of the agenda, and he stated he did not have any Old Business items to bring to the Committee.

Under New Business, Mr. Lamy advised that relative to the contract with Clough, Harbour & Associates (CHA), for the sewer project in the Town of Hague, some issues had come up which would entail extra work that the Committee needed to discuss. He stated he had asked Vern Ingraham, of CHA, to attend this meeting and to answer any questions the Committee members might have about those issues. Mr. Lamy apprised the cost of the extra work to address the issues would total \$31,500 and that amount would be added to the current contract for the project which was for approximately \$498,000. He explained in the extra work authorization, Mr. Ingraham had identified that some of the work in the electrical design item could result in a savings of approximately \$40,000 during construction. A copy of a letter from Mr. Ingraham to Mr. Lamy which outlined the extra work authorization was attached to the agenda.

Mr. Mason entered the meeting at 12:11 p.m.

Dialogue ensued between Mr. Lamy and Mr. Stec on the funding sources for the project. Mr. Lamy confirmed that 90% of the project costs were covered by a (Federal) EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) grant and that 10% was the County's local share. Mr. Lamy confirmed for Mr. Champagne that the funds for the extra work authorization would be in addition to the amount

that had been previously approved for the project. Mr. Champagne noted he thought the balance of those funds had been divided up between the three Towns that were involved in the sewer project and that any overruns in the costs would have to be covered by the local entity and not the County. He asked if that was correct. Mr. Lamy responded that answer would not be known until the construction bids were in. He explained that before the bids could be done they would have to take care of the rest of the engineering issues. Mr. Lamy stated Clough Harbour had put together an analysis which showed that some issues had been discovered that had generated additional engineering work. He advised that part of the additional engineering work would result in potential savings of \$40,000 in the construction costs.

Mr. Belden, Supervisor of the Town of Hague, asked how many more changes were there going to be to the contract. Mr. Lamy said they would review the items in detail with the Committee members.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Mr. Ingraham, who spoke on the project. He noted the first Design Task was the Map, Plan and Report (MPR). Mr. Ingraham advised the MPR had been completed and submitted. He stated in the original project a certain dollar amount was to come from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the project was going to proceed within that dollar amount. However, Mr. Ingraham stated it was then determined that was not going to be the case and that the District was going to be expanded to serve more people than perhaps the grant would allow. He explained that triggered the requirement that the MPR would have to now be submitted to the Comptroller for approval to exceed the funding maximum. Mr. Ingraham advised the efforts would be made to submit the MPR to the New York State Comptroller.

Mr. Belden stated the maximum figure was not known and some of the costs were going to be bonded. He asked when the project would be going to bid. Mr. Belden stressed that he was not pleased with the situation. Mr. Lamy responded that was why he had asked Clough Harbour to meet with them today. Mr. Ingraham noted the firm had recently gone through this same situation on another project and Audit and Control was quite strict about such requests. He advised the Comptroller would be asking additional questions that the Attorney for Hague would have to deal with.

Discussion ensued on the background of the project; and Mr. Lamy summarized the extra work was the result of the Town's decision to expand the project and that required the approval of the State Comptroller. He explained that Clough Harbour would have to provide the additional documentation listed under Item No. 1 of the Design Tasks to the Comptroller. Mr. Belden acknowledged the information. Mr. Ingraham pointed out the number of \$585/ year was shown as the State's threshold for the costs per user. However, he apprised they had recently been informed that for 2007 that number had been lowered to \$568/year. He said that in addition to preparing this submission to Audit and Control, they would need to coordinate with the Town to obtain and forward financial records for the sewer district, for an extra cost of \$3,500.

Mr. Ingraham noted Item No. 2 concerned the design of the pump station for the project. He explained in the initial project they had thought the flow from the north could be tied into an existing pump station. However, he noted, when the design calculations were performed, it was identified that a pump station was required and additionally, in order to prevent overloading the low pressure system of Sewer District #1, an equalization tank was needed. He said the cost for this additional work for the new pump station design was \$11,500.

Continuing, Mr. Ingraham stated Item 3 concerned the electrical design associated with the pump station. He reiterated that originally they had not anticipated that a pump station would be needed or that a heat trace system would provide significant cost savings. He noted that because a new pump station was needed, electrical design work would be required, which was an additional cost of \$8,500.

With regard to Item 4, Geotechnical Investigations, Mr. Ingraham expounded that due to the special restrains the area on Route 9N presented with rock, additional investigations were conducted. He added that they had performed test pits with the assistance of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) to determine the depth and the type of rock that they had confronted. After discussions with DOT, he said, it had been determined that if the sewer pipe could be installed on shallow rock, there could be a significant savings on the construction costs. He noted after further investigations into methods for installing sewer pipe on shallow rock, it was discovered that they could heat trace the piece of pipe which would be pre-insulated, requiring the electric hook-up. Mr. Ingraham stated that the shallow installation that he had described, would save the Town over \$40,000, while the heat trace would enhance the reliability for the sewer system. He advised the cost for this extra work was \$5,000.

Mr. Ingraham explained the easement scenario and stated that the original Scope of Work identified that CHA would prepare up to three easement maps. However, to date, he said, they had prepared a total of fifteen easement maps to allow for the construction of the sewer system.

Mr. Lamy apprised it was not uncommon for engineering projects, for design and construction inspection, to range between 20% to 25% of total construction costs. He further stated that the estimated construction cost for this project was \$3.2 million and 25% of that would total \$800,000. He noted that with this change order, the CHA contract would be \$530,000.

Motion was made by Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to amend the existing contract with Clough Harbour & Associates to include additional services at a cost not to exceed \$31,500, for the Town of Hague Sewer District #2 Project and the necessary resolution was authorized for the next board meeting. A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion by Mr. Stec and seconded by Mr. Mason, Mr. Champagne adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Goodman, Secretary to the Clerk